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child-labor law, had not been enacted; or the fact of current interest that the provisions in the present Illinois law relating to illiteracy and attendance at evening schools are unenforceable. It is, in short, doubtful whether a study of child-labor legislation from a purely academic standpoint by one who has no knowledge of the conditions which such legislation is designed to meet can ever be of practical value, however useful it may be as a basis for discussion in a university seminar.

EDITH ABBOTT.

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New York Typographical Union No. 6: Study of a Modern Trade Union and its Predecessors. By GEORGE A. STEVENS. (Albany: State Department of Labor. 1912. Pp. v, 717.)

The present work is the most complete and satisfactory study of an American local trade union which has yet appeared. The New York Typographical Union deserved intensive study on account of its importance, its long history, and the character of the available source material. The union is one of the largest in the world; it includes in its membership all the union printers in Greater New York and in 1911 had approximately 7000 members. The present volume is a history not only of the union, which was organized in 1850, but also of the associations which preceded it. It is, therefore, a history of printers' organizations in New York from 1794 to 1911. A considerable part of this period had already been covered by Mr. Ethelbert Stewart in his "Early Organizations of Printers," published in the *Bulletin of the Department of Labor* for November, 1905, which carried the history down to 1830. From that date to 1911 Mr. Stevens has had a clear field. The chief sources of the study are the manuscript records of the New York Typographical Society from 1807 to 1818, those of the New York Typographical Association from 1831 to 1840, and of the union from 1850 to 1911. No other local union in this country affords a mass of documentary material so nearly continuous and of such intimate character. In addition, Mr. Stevens has studiously examined the files of many New York newspapers.

The work is purely historical. No attempt has been made to explain in the light of industrial changes the evolution of the union's policies or to estimate the effect of its rules. The book

could with advantage have been reduced one half by the exclusion of much matter of highly excursive character and the exercise of restraint in the reprinting of documents and extracts.

GEORGE E. BARNETT.

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Seasonal Trades. By Various Writers. With an Introduction by SIDNEY WEBB. Edited by SIDNEY WEBB and ARNOLD FREEMAN. (London: Constable and Company. 1912. Pp. 410. 7s. 6d.)

The seasonal trades "seem never to have been made the subject of detailed study." In the United Kingdom of today, according to Mr. Webb, there is no seasonal slackness in the community as a whole. "Stating it definitely, I venture to say that if we could get accurate statistics of the total number of wage-earners actually in employment in the United Kingdom this week we should find it to be very nearly identical with the total number for any other week of the present year."

The papers (we are not told the basis of choice) discuss the waiter, the cycle and gas industries, the tailoring, millinery, skin and fur, boot and shoe, and building trades. The object is to supply a background for understanding the seasonal characteristics of the trade. In some papers this is admirably done, the history, the description of process, or the outline of organization, aiming straight at the mark. Especially is this true in the papers on the waiter and the building trades, while in other papers the preliminary descriptive section goes wide of the mark, as in the paper on the gas industry. In most of the papers the extent to which personal enquiry has extended is not stated, but the printed sources are carefully given at the end of each paper.

On the whole the collection may be considered the starting point for fuller study of each trade. But "every trade has got to be studied by itself" and it will be necessary to secure the actual records of employment from payrolls before any theory of dovetailing occupations can be proved, before the practicability of any funds of labor can be accepted, and certainly before any plans can be scheduled.

The introduction, presenting the treatment of seasonal problems by economists together with an analysis of the data set forth in the papers, is of especial value. In it a goodly number of schemes to adjust "work to the workers" and "workers to the